



## **IN IDAHO, THE TEACHERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS BACK TO WORK ACT WILL PROVIDE \$159.8 MILLION IN FUNDS TO SUPPORT UP TO 2,500 EDUCATOR JOBS**

*The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will save or create nearly 400,000 education jobs through critical investments in the education of our nation's children. Specifically, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will invest \$30 billion to support state and local efforts to retain, rehire, and hire early childhood, elementary, and secondary educators. Facing a \$92 million projected budget shortfall in 2012, cuts to state and local spending on education will place thousands of Idaho teacher jobs at risk. The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will provide Idaho with an additional \$159.8 million in funds that will support 2,500 education jobs, provide a jolt to the state economy, and improve the quality of education. By asking millionaires to pay their fair share, The Teachers and First Responders Back to Work Act will grow the Idaho economy without adding a dime to the deficit.*

**With Fewer Resources, Idaho School Systems Make Choices That Impact the Learning Environment for Students.** As a result of the most severe fiscal crisis since the Great Depression, Idaho faced a budget shortfall of \$92 million in 2012, a staggering 3.6% of the state's General Fund. "Public schools will not suffer the magnitude of cuts that most other state agencies are enduring. But, many valuable and important programs are on the chopping block for the next school year. Districts who counted on state funding to provide for classroom supplies will now have to make tough choices about whether to spend money on those supplies, student transportation, Gifted/Talented teacher training, maintaining health insurance benefits for employees, or a variety of other options." [Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, [6/17/11](#); National Education Association, [4/10](#)]

**Democrats Helped Idaho Avoid an Even Worse Situation, Preventing Hundreds of Potential Layoffs.** Without Democratic intervention in 2010, Idaho school districts would have been forced to lay off as many as 500 teachers. Recognizing the financial difficulty that many state and local governments were experiencing, Democrats shepherded the bipartisan Education Jobs Act into law, thereby protecting 900 education jobs in Idaho. Unfortunately, thousands of teacher jobs are still at stake today. [U.S. Department of Education analysis, [8/6/10](#); National Education Association, [5/10](#)]